

February 26, 1975

I believe the University of Nebraska at Lincoln bought several compact cars last year. Some of the professors refused to drive them. It was interesting. The reason for this is that we have hundreds of cars going up and down the highways of Nebraska, and what are they doing, they're hauling one man. I could see no reason for burning 10 or 12 miles to a gallon of gas when they just as well get 15, 20, or 25 miles to a gallon. The car that I drive I get between 25 and 28 miles to a gallon driving down here every day. If you think that this doesn't have an impact, I have . . . I believe it's three hundred and some cars, 350 cars, that the state bought in that vicinity last year. Had half of them been of the compact size we probably could have saved a couple hundred thousand dollars in gasoline and the purchase of these cars. All I ask is that we start across this nation and tell the people and the rest of the world that we are going to save some gasoline and we are going to save some expenses in the State of Nebraska. If you believe that President Ford is right when he comes and is going to put a \$3 tax on crude oil coming into this nation, or if you want to go to rationing, but there is one way we can do it without going to rationing and without an increase in the price of gasoline - that is to start the State of Nebraska buying these compact cars and saving. If there are any questions, all this is is an economy move for Nebraska and to set a president for the rest of the nation. If there are no questions, that's all I have to say about it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barnett.

SENATOR BARNETT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I'm trying to get an amendment ready here. I don't know if it's . . . I don't see why Senator Keyes is picking on just less than one half. I've looked at his amendments and I'm wondering if he could comment, or he would care to answer questions?

SENATOR KEYES: Yes I will.

SENATOR BARNETT: In subsection 2 of your first amendment there is a 2 in parenthesis. If we take and remove the language that says "not less than one half of", and do the same thing down in section 5. Then it would read "after the effective date of this act, all state-owned passenger cars purchased, leased, or approved for purchase or lease". Down below it will say "after the effective date of this act, all passenger cars except vehicles which are considered duty stations such as vehicles used by law enforcement agents". In other words, if you want to do it let's go all the way.

SENATOR KEYES: I thought about that and I was going to do that, but the thing of it is that I found out that at the Beatrice State Home and the University of Nebraska Medical schools and hospitals, some sorts of state government its necessary that they have a car that has adequate horsepower. Sometimes they haul passengers of 8 or 9 people, they have what they call the 9 passenger station-wagon and they need good horsepower for this. I think